

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00150 260910Z POSS DUPE
ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4053

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, BU
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY DATA ON AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GRIGOROV

REF: A) STATE 018016; B) SOFIA 0112

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A, IN ADDITION TO DATA ALREADY PROVIDED IN REFTEL B, WE HAVE FOLLOWING MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.
2. CONFIRMING INFORMATION IN REF B, GRIGOROV PLANS TO DEPART FEB 6, ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON FEB 7. (HE WILL, THEREFORE,:

BE ON HAND TO JOIN IN MEETING STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAPAZOV UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON FEB 8.) MRS. GRIGOROV WILL FOLLOW LATER IN THE MONTH.

3. GRIGOROV HAS STATED THAT, WHILE HE IS VERY PLEASED WITH ASSIGNMENT TO WASHINGTON, IT HAD BEEN UNEXPECTED. HE INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SELECTION, AND CLEARLY HIS VIEWS ON VARIOUS MATTERS WILL CARRY WEIGHT WITH MLADENOV. GRIGOROV'S STANDING WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN LEADERSHIP IS NOT KNOWN. HE IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE WIDE LATITUDE. WE KNOW, INCLUDING FROM REMARKS BY MLADENOV AND FORMER AMBASSADOR POPOV TO THE AMBASSADOR, THAT FAILURE OF SUCCESSIVE SECRETARIES OF STATE
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EVER TO RECEIVE POPOV RANKLED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO EMBASSY IF GRIGOROV COULD BE GIVEN A BIT MORE ATTENTION.

4. GRIGOROV HAS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS "MAIN TASK" WILL BE TO GET A NEW BULGARIAN CHANCERY IN WASHINGTON. APART FROM FACT THAT THIS HAS RECENTLY BECOME AN ACUTE PROBLEM FOR THE BULGARIANS, WE DO NOT TAKE HIS

REMARK AS ANY INDICATION OF LACK OF INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, BUT PROBABLY AS REFLECTION OF A JUDGMENT THAT THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. GRIGOROV HAS, IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, REFERRED TO BULGARIAN DESIRE FOR MFN, BUT HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO REGARD IT AS A BURNING IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. REPUTEDLY, GRIGOROV DID NOT ENJOY WORKING WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR GERASIMOV, AND ARRANGED HIS OWN TRANSFER FROM WASHINGTON IN 1967. IN CONTRAST, HE IS SAID TO HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR AMBASSADOR POPOV, AND HOPES TO SEE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN BULGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

5. GRIGOROV IS NOT STIFF, AND DOES NOT UNDULY STAND ON PROTOCOL. HE APPEARS TO HAVE AN EASY INFORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BULGARIAN PEERS, AND ON SHORT ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE AMBASSADOR. HIS ENGLISH IS FAIRLY GOOD, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT RUSTY. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON PARTICULAR PROFESSIONAL OR NON-PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS.

6. MRS GRIGOROVA IS SOCIALLY AT EASE, AND HAS FAIR ENGLISH. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON PARTICULAR INTERESTS. BOTH GRIGOROV CHILDREN ARE PRESENTLY STUDENTS IN MOSCOW, THE SON IN HIS SENIOR YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY, AND THE DAUGHTER IN HER SECOND YEAR. THEY HAVE BEEN STUDYING IN MOSCOW WHILE THE GRIGOROVs WERE IN PEKING AND SOFIA, AND WILL CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES THERE.
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